

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 1, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended. Reexamination of the amended application respectfully is requested.

The applicants note with appreciation that claims 15-20 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected over prior art, and claims 3-14 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but are indicated to be allowable in independent form, with all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, and claims 3, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended, and it is submitted that the rejection and objection are inapplicable to the amended claims.

That is, to expedite the prosecution, applicants have canceled the rejected claims and amended the objected claims so that so that all of claims 3-14 either are in independent form including the limitations of the base claim 1 and any intervening claims or depend from such a claim. That is, claims 3, 4, 7 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 1 or claims 1 and 2, and claims 5, 6, 8 and 10-14 depend from one of these amended claims. The

objection and rejection therefore are inapplicable to the amended claims and accordingly should be withdrawn. Therefore, based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 3-20 earnestly is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

September 30, 2004

Date



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